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of the English Language

FOURTH EDITION

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hen-a-ble (in'tk-sting/gwi-sha-bd) adj. Difficult or gh; an incorngaishable flame; an meximguishable guish-a-bly adv.

ble (in'ik-stûr'pa-bal) adj. Difficult or impossible to

(in ek-stre mis) adv. 1. At the point of death. 2. In Seconstances. [Latin in extrêmis: in, in + extrêmis, abextreme. hist (in-ék/stri-ka-bal, in'ik-strik/a-bal) adj. 1a. So

as to make escape impossible; an inextricable maze, of deceit. b. Difficult or impossible to disentangle or sesse sangle of threads. C. Too involved or complicated to problem. 2. Unavoidable; in escapable: bound togethtreca bly adv

ange nuclear forces 2. inferior 3. infinitive 4. Infinity

A. Interior 3. Intinutve 4. Infinity

(Alf3-bil) adj. 1. Incapable of erring an infallible

secce of information. 2. Incapable of failing certain:

an infallible rule. 3. Roman Catholic Church Incacounting doctrine on faith or morals. (Middle Finen mjamose ruse. 3. Roman Catholic Church Inca-mending doctrine on faith or morals. [Middle Eng-Latin Infallibilis: Latin In-, not; see In-4- Medical Cheesee MALIBLE [—In-fal'Il-bill'|+ ty, in-fal'Il-fal'Il-bly adv.

Pis-mas) adj. 1. Having an exceedingly bad reputa-2. Causing or deserving infamy; heinous: an infamous Parsiet able by severe measures, such as death, long is see of civil rights. b. Convicted of a crime, such as trea-CRYSES such a punishment. [Middle English infamis, in-, not, see IN-' + fama, renown, fame; see bhā-'

(Not) n. pl. -mies 1. Evil fame or reputation. 2. The (amous. 3. An evil or criminal act that is publicly infamic, dishonor, from Old French, from Latin infamous, See INFAMOUS.

infamous, See INFAMOUS.;

(in n, pl. -cles 1. The earliest period of childhood. the state of the s The state or period of being a minor.

2 s. 1. A child in the earliest period of life, especially set walk. 2. Law A person under the legal age of ma-2. Newly begun or formed: an infant enterprise. [Mid-\$ 23d French enfant, from Latin Infans, Infant-, from spess, young: in-, not; see IN-1 + fâns, present parti-

(%, -fin'-) n. A daughter of a Spanish or Portu-38%, -fan'-) n. A daughter of a Spanish or Portu-sis and Portuguese, feminine of infante, infante; see IN-

SSR -finfes) m. A son of a Spanish or Portuguese hele to the throne. [Spanish and Portuguese, both A Stans-, infant, See INFANT. (a-fin/ti-sid') n. 1. The act of killing an infant. 2.

newborn infants. 3. One who kills an infant. [Late se killing of a child and infanticida, killer of a child: afant; see INFANT + Latin -cidium and -cida, -cide.] i-sid/l) adj.

'sex-til', -til) adj. 1. Of or relating to infants or inor suggesting a lack of maturity; childish: infantile remark. [Middle English infantil, from Latin In-Middle English i n Autism.

talysis n. See poliomyelitis.

Six fan-ti-iz'am, in-fan'ti-) n. 1. A state of arrested soldt characterized by retention of infantile mentalgrowth and sexual immaturity, and often by immaturity, as in behavior or character: "infanand culture" (John the sie act or remark.

often-tl-iz', In-fan'-) mx -ized, -iz*Ing, -iz*es 1. nice state or condition: "It creates a crisis that infan-Soon men to squabble like kids about trivial things or condescend to as if still a young child: "The Sweet Fire parient" (Judith Moore). -in+fan'-#1830s) n.

****** tin', -tin) adj. Infantile; childish.

n, pl. -tries 1. The branch of an army made Se fight on foot. 2. Soldiers armed and trained to ext ordered his infantry to attack. 3. A unit, such Seach, from Old Italian infanteria, from infante, Latin infans, infant-, infant. See INFANT.]

vehicle n. A heavily armed, armored combat w wheels and often having amphibious capability, into battle and support them there

fan-trè-mon) n. A soldier in the infantry. * Charle British A kindergarten.

(3) färkt*) n. An area of tissue that undergoes nemotion of local blood supply, as by a thrombus Infarctus, past participle of infarcire, to cram :
to stuff.] —in *farct/ed adj. in-farc-tion (In-fark/shan) n. 1. The formation or development of an infarct. 2. An infarct

in-fat-u-ate (In-fách/6ō-āt') n.u.-at-ed, -at-ing, -ates 1. To in-spire with unreasoning love or attachment. 2. To cause to behave fool-ishly. ** adi. (-ii, -āt') Infatuated. [Latin infatuate: infatuate: in-, causative pref.; see IN-2 + faruus, foolish.l

in-fat-u-at-ed (in-fach/00-a'tid) adj. Possessed by an unreasoning or attraction. -in-fat/u-at/ed-ly adv.

in-fat-u-a-tion (i-fách' 60-3'shan) n. 1. A foolish, unreasoning, or extravagant passion or attraction. See synonyms at love. 2. An object of extravagant, short-lived passion. in-fau-na (in/fo'na) n. Aquatic animals that live in the substrate of

a body of water, especially in a soft sea bottom. [IN-2 + FAUNA.] in-fea-si-ble (in-fe/za-bal) adi. Not feasible: impracticable. -infea'si*bil'l*ty n —in*fea'si*bly adv.

in fect (in-fékt) in x -fecteed, -fect-ing, -fects 1. To contaminate with a pathogenic microorganism or agent. 2. To communicate a pathogen or disease to. 3. To invade and produce infection in. 4. To contamnate or corrupt: envy that infected their thoughts; a society that was in fected by racism. 5. To affect in a contagious way: "Its fear infected me, and . . . I followed as fast as I could" (W.H. Hudson). [Middle English infecter, to afflict with disease, from Latin Inficere, Infect-, to stain, infect in; see IN-2 + facere, to do; see dhe- in Appendix [].]

in-fec-tion (In-fek/shan) n. 1a. Invasion by and multiplication of pathogenic microorganisms in a bodily part or tissue, which may produce subsequent tissue injury and progress to overt disease through a va-riety of cellular or toxic mechanisms. b. An instance of being infected. C. An agent or a contaminated substance responsible for one's becoming infected. d. The pathological state resulting from having been infected. 2. An infectious disease. 3a. Moral contamination or corruption. b. Ready communication of an emotion or attitude by contact or example in-fec-tious (in-fek/shas) adj. 1. Capable of causing infection. 2. Caused by or capable of being transmitted by infection. 3. Caused by a pathogenic microorganism or agent. 4. Easily or readily communicated n infectious laugh. —in•fec'tious•ly adv. —in•fec'tious•ness n. infectious enterohepatitis n. See blackhead (sense 2).

Infectious hepatitis n See hepatitis A

infectious mononucleosis n. A common, acute, infectious disease, usually affecting young people, caused by Epstein-Barr virus and characterized by fever, swollen lymph nodes, sore throat, and lymphocyte abnormalities. Also called glandular fever.

in-fec-tive (In-fek/tiv) adj. Capable of producing infection; infections. —in-fec/tive-ness, in/fec-tiv/i-ty n.

Infe-lic-i-tous (in'ff-lis'i-tas) adj. 1. Inappropriate; ill-chosen; an infelicitous remark. 2. Not happy; unfortunate. —in'fe-lic'i-tous-ly in-fe-lic-i-ty (In'fi-lis/I-te) n., pl. -ties 1. The quality or condition of being infelicitous. 2. Something inappropriate or unpleasing. [Middle English infelicite, from Latin Infelicitals, from Infelic, infelic, unbappy:

not; see IN-1 + felix, happy; see dhe(i)- in Appendix I.] in-fer (in-fûr') x -ferred, -fer-ring, -fers -tr. 1. To conclude from evidence or premises, 2. To reason from circumstance; surmise: We can infer that his motive in publishing the diary was less than honorable.

3. To lead to as a consequence or conclusion: "Socrates argued that a statue inferred the existence of a sculptor" (Academy). 4. To hint; imply. -intr. To draw inferences. [Latin inferre, to bring in, additice: in-, in; see the-2 + ferre, to hear; see bher-1 in Appendix I, I -in-fer/a-ble adi. -in-fer'a-bly adv. -in-fer'rer n.

Usage Note Infer is sometimes confused with imply, but the distinction is a useful one. When we say that a speaker or sentence implies something, we mean that it is conveyed or suggested without being stated outright: When the mayor said that she would not rule out a business tax increase, she implied (not inferred) that some taxes might be raised. Inference, on the other hand, is the activity performed by a reader or interpreter in drawing conclusions that are not explicit in what is said: When the mayor said that she would not rule out a tax increase, we inferred that she had been consulting with some new financial advisers, since her old advisers were in layar of tax reductions.

In-fer-ence (Yn/for-ans) n. 1a. The act or process of deriving logical conclusions from premises known or assumed to be true. b. The act of reasoning from factual knowledge or evidence. 2a. Something inferred. b. Usage Problem A hint or suggestion: The editorial contained an is ence of foul play in the awarding of the contract. See Usage Note at infer in-fer-en-tial (In'fo-ren'shal) adj. 1. Of, relating to, or involving inference. 2. Derived or capable of being derived by inference. -in' ferentialely adv.

in-fe-ri-or (In-fir/e-ar) adj. 1. Low or lower in order, degree, or rank: Captain is an inferior rank to major. 28. Low or lower in quality, value, or estimation: inferior craft; felt inferior to his older sibling. b. Second-rate; poor: an inferior translation. 3. Situated under or beneath. 4. Botany Located below the perianth and other floral parts. Used of an ovary. 5. Anatomy Located beneath or directed downward. 6. Printing Set below the normal line of type; subscript. 7. Astronomy a. Orbiting between Earth and the sun: Mercury is an inferior planer. b. Lying below the horizon. • n. 1. A person lower in rank, status, or accomplishment than another. 2. Printing An inferior character, such as the number 2 in CO. [Middle English, from Latin Inferior, comparative of Inferus, low. See ndher- in Appendix I. [-in-fe'ri-or'l-ty (-or'i-te, -or'-) n. -

inferiority complex n. A persistent sense of inadequacy or a ten-

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I pit	th thin	
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a about, item regionalism Stress marks: / (primary); ' (recondary), as in dictionary (dik/sha-për/ë)